

- iv. 10-12 Words of advice to the foreign nations and their rulers—an offer of amnesty, or judgment.
  - a) 2:7 referenced or quoted in Acts, Romans, Hebrews and even the Gospels.
  - b) Acts 4:25-28
- C. What does this psalm have to do with you and I today?
  - i. The nations of the world still plot in vain and still perceive the benevolent rule of God as *chains* and *shackles*.
  - ii. Do you ever consider God's laws to be restrictive, keeping us from being happy or fulfilled?
  - iii. Do we gladly embrace God's commands to bring mercy and justice?

### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How do Psalms 1 & 2 present contrasting ways to think and live and promise radically different outcomes? What are they inviting you to do?
- In order to experience the blessed life these psalms promise, one has to change what one muses on! What does your mind go to when left to itself? What are some of the ways you have been tempted to stand in the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of scoffers, or hear the counsel of the wicked?
- What are some ways we know that this Psalm is ultimately pointing to Jesus Christ?
- Since God's law is summed up in love of God and neighbor, to meditate in God's law is to muse on ways to love our neighbor as ourselves (as well as to love God!). How might meditating on how we are called to love our neighbor affect us and others?
- Why do you think these Psalms are an important part of a believer's prayer and worship book?

## Psalms: Living in the Presence of God (1)

Jerry Cisar — February 14, 2016

Text: Psalm 1–2

### Introduction

- A. The Psalms are about living in God's presence in worship and prayer.
  - B. Why Psalm 1 & 2 together?
    - i. Neither has an inscription linking them *David*.
    - ii. *Blessed is the one who...* and *Blessed are all who...*
    - iii. Psalm 1 speaks of those who *sit in the seat of scoffers*; Psalm 2 of *the One who sits in heaven and laughs and scoffs at the wicked*.
    - iv. 1:2 speaks of those who *muse on the law of the Lord*, and 2:1 speaks of those who *muse on ways to throw off God's rule*.
    - v. Psalm 1 ends declaring that *the way of the wicked will perish* and Psalm 2 declares that all who refuse to submit to the son will *perish in the way*.

### I. The Individual in Pursuit of God (Psalm 1)

- A. "*Blessed is the one who...*"
  - i. Deuteronomy 33:29
  - ii. The purpose of this declaration may be 2-fold:
    - a) To produce faith in the hearer to be this one.
    - b) To remind us of this truth when the wicked prosper and faith seems futile.

B. If I am going to experience the blessedness which is promised I must know the importance of “No!”

C.S. Lewis: *Not because we are “too good” for them. In a sense, because we are not good enough. We are not good enough to deal with all the temptations, nor clever enough to cope with all the problems, which an evening spent in such society produces. The temptation is to condone, to connive at; by our words, looks and laughter, to “consent.” The temptation was never greater than now when we are all (and very rightly) so afraid of priggery or ‘smugness.’*

C. Who are these wicked, these sinners, these scoffers?

Davidson: *One thing, however, must be said at the outset or many of the Psalms will be misunderstood: “the righteous” are not the self-righteous. Essentially, they are those who seek to be in the right with God, often humble folk who find their true home in life within the fellowship of God’s people. “The wicked,” by contrast, are those who flout the authority of God and who seek in a variety of ways to oppress or undermine the people of God.*

D. On what does the blessed one muse? (1:2)

- i. His delight is in the Law of the Lord and He meditates on it day and night.
  - a) This is not the one upon whom the ways and teachings of God are a weight and burden which must be obeyed, or else.

b) This person believes the rule of God is the most benevolent governance of the world possible and he desires to participate in that justice.

ii. Alexis de Tocqueville: *“Each citizen is habitually engaged in the contemplation of a very puny object, namely himself.”* (1835)

E. He is Like a Tree in Eden! (1:3-6)

## II. The Powers Stacked Against Us (Psalm 2)

A. The wicked who are introduced in Psalm 1 now taking the form of peoples and nations who oppose God and God’s chosen ruler—Jesus Christ.

B. *Royal psalm*: It describes a coronation ceremony. (e.g. 2 Kings 11:12)

i. 1-3 *Why do the nations conspire and plot in vain?*

ii. 4-6 We see all this from heaven’s perspective.

iii. 7-9 The newly appointed King speaks.